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CAROLINA COUNTRY

Official publication of North Carolina's electric cooperatives

Why we live in the country
by Elizabeth Hunter

Volume 29, No. 6, June 1997

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How to Get a Fast Mortgage Loan To Pay Off All Your Bills** (Even If You've Been Turned Down By A Bank Or Mortgage Company)

Rockingham, N.C. - Ray and Becky were frustrated. They'd bought the house 12 years ago and it was five years old when they moved in. Becky laughed out loud when she thought back to that time. Back then it seemed so big and beautiful. But now, 12 years and 3 kids later, the house felt small and run down. The house needed a new roof and her two youngest girls, Emily and Katie, were doubling up in the small 10 x 12 bedroom.

Five years ago, Ray and Becky had a contractor come and talk to them about a new addition. Becky remembered how excited she and Ray both were. They even paid to have the plans drawn up. But that was the year before Ray lost his job at the plant. She poured herself another cup of coffee and recalled how depressed they both were. It was over a year before he got another job. And during that time, they got behind on everything.

No Summer Vacation

They were so strapped for money one summer, they couldn't even take Emily and Katie to the beach for a few days for their annual vacation. Sure they finally got all caught up when Ray went back to work, it took them two years and by that time it had ruined their previously perfect credit record, it was a vicious cycle. You know, getting paid on Friday, sitting down on Saturday to pay bills and running out of money before all the bills are paid.

"I Hit A Brick Wall"

After they got caught up they tried again to borrow the money for the addition. First they got turned down by the local bank, then a mortgage company in town rejected them. They just kept hitting the same brick wall. Even though Ray had gone back to work in another carpet mill making MORE money, the late payments that showed up on his credit reports scared the local banks and mortgage companies away. Ray felt like he was working JUST to pay his monthly bills and doing nothing for himself, Becky or the kids. Then he ran into Harvest Mortgage Company. Harvest helped him get a loan to pay off all his bills and consolidate everything into one single payment that was \$358 lower than he had been making. That saved him a whopping \$4,296 per year, TAX FREE. In the first year, that was enough money to close in the back porch, AND enough left over for new bikes for the kids.

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CAROLINA COUNTRY

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School's out!

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Lloyd Lee personified the cooperative soul

By Edward E. Brown Jr.



Edward E. Brown
General Manager
Four County, EMC

North Carolina's rural electric program lost a good friend on April 15, 1997 when Lloyd Lee, general manager of Tideland EMC in Pantego, passed away unexpectedly.

Many attributes — all favorable — come to mind when I think of Lloyd.

First and foremost he loved his family and was a man of faith. He believed in the strength of his family — his son and daughter, his brother and sister, his grandson, and especially his wife, Lina.

He was very much a people person in that his patience and composure

appeared without bounds. Always seeing the good in everyone, even in difficult situations, Lloyd was never quick to criticize. He extended his goodwill and support far and wide.

As the top executive of Tideland EMC, he was always working hard to provide a high level of service quality and reliability to Tideland's members. He considered Tideland as an organization in the people business that happens to sell them electricity as well.

His quiet, unassuming manner could be misleading. In a moving eulogy at his funeral, Heidi Smith, a member of his staff, eloquently remembered Lloyd as a visionary leader who avoided the spotlight. I agree with her description in that wonderful tribute. All of us can consider ourselves proud and privileged to have known him.

Of the hundreds of people I have known and worked with over some 30 years, none was any nicer, more considerate, more a gentleman than Lloyd Lee. To have such a person conduct himself so professionally during the 35 years of his career with us is certainly a testament to the character of electric cooperatives. Lloyd Lee embodied the personality of our business.

Edward E. Brown Jr. is manager of Four County EMC, serving 26,000 members in Duplin, Sampson, Bladen, Pender, Columbus and Onslow counties.

Red light at Sugar Hill

I enjoy Carolina Country every month, especially when it deals with eastern North Carolina, where my roots are (Bertie, Windsor and Craven-New Bern). The coverage of the military bases was great ["Back to the Bases," April 1997]. I do believe, however, that the "famous red-light district of Kinston" was Sugar Hill, not Cherry Hill.

Jack Gurley
Melbourne, Fla.



Where is Chimney Rock Park?

As soon as the May magazine was in the hands of readers, we heard about the mistaken directions we gave to Chimney Rock Park ["Day Trips," May 1997, page 27]. We don't know just how it happened, because we certainly do know where Chimney Rock is. The directions should have sent drivers 40 minutes southeast of Asheville along Hwy. 74-A., not on Hwy. 70.

Carolina Country's new look

Do you notice something different in the way Carolina Country looks this month? The new designs are the work of Leisha Letterman, a graphic artist who joined our staff in April. She came to us from the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, where she was art director, and DPI was sorry to see her go. She's one of the best that Raleigh and Meredith College have produced. And like any artist, Leisha has a mind and will of her own. We had no choice but to give her some artistic freedom as she took over the look of the magazine.

Where do Dave Barry's columns go after they leave his toaster?

When we published "What in the world is electricity and where does it go after it leaves the toaster?" [April 1997, page 22], we admitted that we did not know its author. It was a wonderful musing on electricity sent to us over the Internet without an author's name. But several readers recognized the style immediately.

"I could tell right away that it was Dave Barry," said Susan Farris, a member of Davidson EMC. "I read his columns and books to my daughter."

Dave Barry is a syndicated humor columnist with the Miami Herald, and his columns reach many thousands of fans. Some of his North Carolina fans sent our magazine to Dave Barry to alert him. Mr. Barry's secretary reached us to say that Dave was indeed the author, and that the piece appeared in his 1985 book, "Bad Habits."

Dave Barry himself replied gratefully to all his alert North Carolina correspondents.

We agree with him that users of the Internet can easily and unintentionally grab something that doesn't belong to them.

We also found it interesting that Bill Prumm, a reader in Perquimans County, guessed that the author was "an Australian," because he read the piece in the late 1980s when it came to him from Australia via a ham radio bulletin (the forerunner of the Internet).

"Dream house" essay contest remains open through July

Claudette and Richard Sansom have told us that the essay contest offering their 5,600-square-foot "dream house" as a prize attracted the interest of more than 500 Carolina Country readers ["Carolina Close-Up," February 1997].

The Sansoms went to great lengths to promote a legitimate essay contest, with a \$100 entry fee, as a way to sell their house on the Statesville Country Club golf course. Not all who inquired submitted an application and the \$100 fee, but response has been steady from our coverage, as well as publicity the Sansoms placed elsewhere. One reader questioned the integrity of the contest, but hundreds appreciated the idea.



The Sansoms want a nice, deserving family to gain title to their house, so instead of selling it to the highest bidder, they've arranged for a panel of independent judges to determine the best essay of 200 words or less on the topic, "What a Dream Home Would Mean to Me."

They need approximately 5,000 entries, along with the \$100 entry fee for each, postmarked before July 31, 1997. If they don't get 5,000 entries, the fees will be refunded. The offer was arranged by their own attorneys and submitted to the N.C. Attorney General's Office to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations, says Mr. Sansom.

Entrants must be age 18 or older. The official entry materials are available by sending a stamped, self-addressed business-size envelope to Dream Home Contest, P.O. Box 526, Statesville, NC 28687.

Permission granted

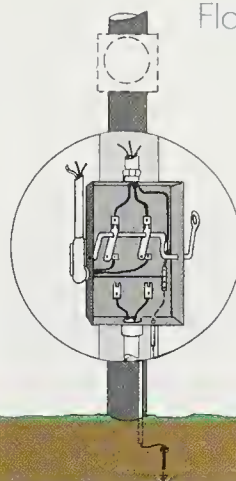
Kaye Hollifield, librarian at East Lincoln Middle School, Lincoln County, called to ask permission to photocopy the "Joyner's Corner" puzzle we ran in May so the school's 8th graders could use it as an educational project. It was the "The Great North Carolina County Seat Criss-Cross" that contained the names of all 100 county seats in the state. (See the solution to that puzzle on page 29 of this issue.)

"Our eighth grade social studies classes all study North Carolina, and the county seat criss-cross puzzle is both appropriate and fun for these students," she said.

Because the "Joyner's Corner" page is copyrighted by M. Joyner, we sought his permission, and he granted it to Kaye Hollifield.

Ms. Hollifield knows to be careful with copyright. "We had national publicity for our school, because we do pay attention to copyrighted materials," she said.

Florida learns about generator safety



Typical Double Pole, Double Throw
Transfer Switch Installation for 120/240 V,
Single-Phase Service

Carlene Wolf, a librarian in Florida, asked permission to copy and distribute our article on "How to use a portable generator safely" [April 1997]. Ever since Hurricane Andrew she said, people in her part of Florida have tried using generators during power outages. Our article was the most comprehensive information about the safe use of those machines

that she has seen. We have since published a reprint of that article and made it available to North Carolina's electric cooperatives to distribute to their members.

Ordinary comments on uncommon guys

I read with great delight your story about James Lee Burney's retirement [March 1997]. James Lee is an old and dear friend. Our friendship dates back to the early 1960s when we both worked for the North Carolina Fund in Durham. Later, when I was in state government and working for the United States Senate we were involved in many projects together. He has always been the consummate professional and the loyal friend. I thank you and the North Carolina electric cooperatives for your splendid tribute to him.

On another matter, I read Owen Bishop's note on Satchel Page's tips ["Journal," March 1997]. Years ago, I ran across another of Satchel's pearls which I have enjoyed quoting. Satchel said, "There's a lot of folks what's born ordinary, but ain't no man gotta be common." Having been born somewhat "ordinary" myself, I've always appreciated that sentiment.

Carroll Leggett
Raleigh

Glaucoma research project at Duke Eye Center seeks volunteers

The Duke University Eye Center tells us that 20 families responded to its request for volunteers in the Glaucoma Genetics Research Project ["Carolina Close-Up," February 1997]. R. Rand Allingham, M.D., the project's lead investigator said, "These families will greatly help in our research efforts at Duke. These volunteers are helping not only their own families and children, they are helping all of those who have this blinding disease."

Dr. Allingham said that other individuals with a family history of glaucoma may contact Duke University to participate. Volunteers are contacted by study coordinators who determine whether a family can be enrolled in the study. All affected family members can be examined at no charge by Dr. Allingham or his associates at the Eye Center. In many instances, medical records can be examined which can eliminate the need for an examination at Duke. Once the family is enrolled, a small blood sample is obtained for DNA analysis. It is expected that it will take several years to identify the locations of genes which cause glaucoma. All participating family members receive yearly newsletter on the progress of this project.

Contact Deidre Tallett or Bob Broomer at 800-422-1575 ext. 435 or 505.



Cited for international cooperation (from left): Doug Johnson of Blue Ridge Electric, Jose Kreidler of CRE Bolivia, and Robert McClurg of NRECA.

Blue Ridge Electric helps Bolivian cooperative

One of the most sophisticated electric cooperatives in Latin America shared honors recently with its sister co-op, Blue Ridge Electric, one of the most sophisticated cooperatives in the United States.

Blue Ridge Electric, based in Lenior, and Cooperativa Rural De Electrificación de Santa Cruz de la Sierra (CRE), based in Bolivia, South America, were recognized for their 25-year relationship as "sister cooperatives." The International Programs division of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) annual meeting gave the honor.

In 1963, NRECA helped establish CRE along the edge of the Amazon Basin in Bolivia. In 1972, CRE adopted Blue Ridge Electric as its sister electric cooperative. Since then these two cooperatives have worked together to build a strong and growing electric cooperative system in the state of Santa Cruz, Bolivia. CRE has a membership of 160,000 and has invested millions of dollars in rural electrification projects. Jose Kreidler, CRE general manager, credits the years of training and mentoring by Blue Ridge Electric as an important factor in the co-op's success.

Blue Ridge Electric assisted CRE in several key areas including engineering and operations, plant accounting, communications systems and human resources.

During ceremonies before hundreds of U.S. electric cooperative officials and more than 50 foreign delegates, Blue Ridge Electric and CRE were hailed as "models in their nations" and praised for "showing the world why cooperatives are the utility of choice everywhere."

The award was presented by NRECA president Robert H. McClurg to David Antelo, president of CRE, and to Doug Johnson, chief executive officer of Blue Ridge Electric. McClurg praised the organizations for demonstrating "the value of cooperative rural electrification and electric co-ops' working together to bring about meaningful social and economic change."

Blue Ridge Electric serves 55,000 member accounts in Ashe, Alleghany, Wilkes, Watauga, Caldwell, Alexander and Avery counties.

Changes in the electric service industry take shape in other states

Deregulation, re-regulation, competition. Whatever name it bears, change, in some form, is on the way for the utility industry. North Carolina's electric cooperatives are preparing for change, working to ensure that their members will continue to receive reliable, affordable electric service regardless of any regulatory changes.

These changes, and how co-ops nationwide are preparing for them and reacting to them were topics of the keynote panel discussion at the 47th statewide annual meeting of North Carolina's electric cooperatives. Over 400 co-op directors, employees and guests attended the meeting held April 15-16 in Raleigh.

In Pennsylvania, legislation has been passed which will allow all electric consumers a choice in providers by the year 2000. Panelist William Mowatt, former president of the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association and Allegheny Electric Cooperative, said that Pennsylvania's cooperatives started out "saying no, then saying go." Early on, the state's co-ops formed a coalition with investor-owned utilities to oppose deregulation. In the end, Pennsylvania's cooperatives drafted their own language in the legislation to ensure equitable treatment for rural consumers in a competitive retail market.

Larry Watkins, general manager of the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives, explained how co-ops in his state took the lead in drafting deregulation legislation. "We wanted to harvest the benefits of competition, while still protecting our members from competition's potentially harmful aspects." Because Oklahoma is a strong proponent of state's rights, Watkins said, the state welcomed the opportunity to take the lead instead of waiting for federal legislation to trickle down.

William Berg, general manager of Dairyland Power Cooperative in Wisconsin, described the deliberate approach Wisconsin's co-ops took, earning a spot at the table where plans were being made while mobilizing a grassroots network of support. "We worked to ensure that we had a proactive plan that was in the best interests of all our members." The Wisconsin Public Utilities Commission created an Advisory Committee on Electric Utility Restructuring which consisted of 20 "stakeholders" including investor-owned utilities, municipalities, cooperatives and residential and industrial customers. (A similar commission is currently being formed in North Carolina.) The committee drafted a 32-point work plan that will lead to retail competition in 2000.

Other speakers offered different perspectives on deregulation in North Carolina including Wally Rustad, director of government relations for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association; JoAnn Sanford, N.C. Utilities Commissioner; and Steven J. Rose, legislative counsel for the N.C. General Assembly.

Rose said that "deregulation is a misnomer," because an increase in competition will lead to an increase in regulation. Rose maintains that the main questions for North Carolina remain: "Do we need to do anything, and do we have a choice?"

Statewide officers elected

At the 47th annual meeting of the statewide organizations of North Carolina's electric cooperatives, the following were elected as officers:

North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (power supply): Michael E. Finney, president; James E. Mangum Jr., vice president; Randy Brecheisen, secretary/treasurer.

North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives (trade services): John Woodruff, president; J. Michael Davis, vice president; Jimmy Burbage, secretary/treasurer.

Tarheel Electric Membership Association (central supply): R.B. Sloan Jr., president; J. Henry Davis Jr., vice president; Earl Andrews, secretary/treasurer.

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association director: Douglas W. Johnson, Blue Ridge.

Lloyd Lee, Tideland EMC manager, dies while attending annual meeting



Lloyd H. Lee, general manager of Tideland Electric Membership Corporation, died April 15 following a massive heart attack that occurred during the statewide annual meeting of North Carolina's electric cooperatives. He was 62.

Tideland's board president, Jimmy Burbage, expressed his appreciation for the resuscitation efforts of Fulton Smith (job training and safety specialist with the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives) and Billy O. McDonald (director, Haywood EMC). "We are proud of the expert training and skills of these men who were on the scene to help," he said.

Most of Mr. Lee's professional career was with North Carolina's electric co-ops, beginning in 1962. He worked with Lumbee River EMC, Four County EMC and Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative before joining Tideland EMC in 1988 as general manager.

Presiding at the annual meeting of the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Tom Stackhouse, manager of Central EMC, said that Mr. Lee had been a mentor of his for 14 years. Stackhouse said, "You saw qualities in him that you would want to emulate. He always looked for the positive, never the negative. I always admired him for that."

The Tideland EMC board on April 18 appointed Bob McDuffie as interim general manager for up to four months. McDuffie began his career with Randolph EMC in Asheboro in 1961 and retired from that 25,000-member co-op last year. He has served in many statewide and national positions in the service of electric cooperatives.

Jimmy Burbage said that a search committee has begun seeking a permanent manager for the co-op. Tideland EMC serves 19,500 accounts in Beaufort, Pamlico, Hyde, Washington, Craven and Dare counties.

Lloyd Lee was born in Pender County and lived in Washington. He is survived by his wife, Lina Sanford Lee; a son, Lloyd "Nolan" Lee of Bath; a daughter, Marcia Lynne McConeghy of Raleigh; a grandchild, Nolan Alexander Lee; a sister, Marie Wood of Angier; and a brother, Clifton Lee of Ivanhoe.

Lloyd Lee inspired Tideland EMC

by Heidi Jernigan Smith

The role of navigator comfortably suited Lloyd Lee. Amidst turbulence he was the calm that inspired diligence, fortitude and ultimately safe passage. Equally committed to family, work and community, he didn't falter and was always moving forward.

Mr. Lee did not measure accomplishments in traditional terms of success or failure, but rather by whether or not you tried. Did you do your best? Was your heart in the right place?

Never complacent, Lloyd Lee would gladly lend you an idea or two ... or three or four. His ideas were by no means limited to the electric business, either. The marketing plan for a roadside fruit stand in Hyde County or a new bed and breakfast in Belhaven were just as interesting to Mr. Lee as the challenges facing our co-op. And he believed you could never go wrong with a billboard in the right location.

Mr. Lee believed that every co-op that wanted to grow, be competitive and meet the needs of its members should employ a "change master." But he knew that people can't live with change if there's not a changeless core inside them. The key to the ability to change is a changeless sense of who you are, what you are about and what you value. It was the changeless core of Mr. Lee that endeared him to our hearts.

I believe his personal constitution included the following:

Succeed at home first.

Never compromise with honesty.

Remember the people involved.

Hear both sides before judging.

Obtain the counsel of others.

Defend those who are absent and downtrodden. Be sincere yet decisive.

Maintain a positive attitude.

Keep a sense of humor.

Do not fear mistakes. Fear only the absence of creative, constructive and corrective responses to those mistakes.

Facilitate the success of your employees. Listen twice as much as you speak.

Mr. Lee was, however, camera shy almost to a fault. Getting him to pose for a picture was something he only did when you assured him it was for God, country and co-op. It's not surprising really, because he never wanted to be the focus of attention.

It's common to assume that as we grow older we get stuck in a rut, resist change or simply remain status quo. That never applied to Mr. Lee. He was constantly reeducating himself and wanted each of us to do the same. He firmly practiced the belief that in helping Tideland EMC reach its full potential we, as employees, could also reach ours.

Among Tideland Electric's unifying principles, the first is the one that I believe applied most to Mr. Lee: "belief in the strength of people". He believed in our collective strength as an organization and as a community.

I like many have contemplated the seeming injustice that Mr. Lee died while at the top of his game. But I can't imagine that his life extended by ten, fifteen or twenty years would have lost its intensity or drive. And Mr. Lee wouldn't want his absence to diminish our own journey. We must not cease to explore.

Teilhard De Chardin once said, "We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience."

What a wonderful experience Lloyd Lee has been. I hope we all make it a personal habit to stop, listen and learn from the Lloyd Lees of the world. And when you do, listen with your heart.

Heidi Jernigan Smith is the communications and marketing specialist with Tideland Electric Membership Corporation. The preceding is excerpted from the eulogy she delivered at Lloyd Lee's funeral service, April 19 in Washington, N.C.



Heidi Jernigan Smith

People who live
in the far reaches
of North Carolina's
mountains find ways
to fit in, rather
than stand out



why we live here

By Elizabeth Hunter

Not too long ago, places like the Bandana community where I live were called backwaters. "The middle of nowhere." "Wide places in the road."

Maybe they still are.

That's okay with me. And, I dare say, with other transplants, who've opted for quality of life rather than standard of living. Not to mention my neighbor Guy Silver, whose ancestors arrived here shortly after the Revolutionary War.

From my window today, I can watch six of Guy's cows and a bull grazing the next ridge over from mine. Once the trees in the ravine between us leaf out, I won't be able to see them again 'til November. But on quiet summer afternoons when I'm picking squash, I'll hear them tearing mouthfuls of fescue from grassy hummocks as they loiter in the shade at the bottom of the field. It's that quiet.

Below my window, birds are feasting on suet and seed: chipping sparrows, blue jays, chickadees, titmice, goldfinches, a cardinal pair, assorted hairy, downy and red-bellied woodpeckers and doves (which I prefer to call "rain crows"—the lovely country name I've learned since moving here). At the edge of the wood, dogwood blooms are expanding, mutating in hue from yellow to cream to white. We've had a taste of dogwood winter; blackberry winter is still to come.

Twenty years ago, I bought this house. I didn't have a nearby job or sufficient savings to support me. It wasn't a sensible thing to do, right then, and the years that followed weren't easy. The septic tank failed; the roof leaked; I was cold, just like the weather, for the better part of every winter. Still, I never seriously considered moving anywhere else—not for a good job or good money. I grew up in rural New England, migrated to a city for college and work. Leaving the country was breathtakingly easy; getting back to it was hard.

No way will I have to do that again—ever.

C Travel & Tourism



*I've learned to recognize
writing stories, trellising
the beans and weedeating
around the raspberries
not only as work but
also as reward.*



it feels like home here

"Instant love" is the way my friend Gloria Schulman describes what happened to her in 1971, when she and her husband Norm, a potter and sculptor in clay, came to Mitchell County for four months on Norm's sabbatical from the Rhode Island School of Design. Gloria spent her time roaming and meeting local folks, who invited her into their homes and allowed her to photograph them. When the Schulmans left, they told friends, "If you hear about a house going up for sale, call us." When the friends did, Norm hopped a plane, rented a car, bought the house. It took them a few years of coming just for the summer before they could settle in for good.

"We've never been sorry we did," Gloria says. "Unfortunately, many of the people I met and came to love that first summer are gone now, but there have been others to take their place."

"We've lived in lots of places; this is the first that felt like home," says Norm.

That's the way it feels to me—like home. What helped me abandon my native land for the southern mountains was—among other things—the vividness with which people expressed themselves. I loved it when they described a worthless man as "sorry"; called a bad-humored person "ill"; a woodpecker a "peckerwood"; a relapse of illness a "backset"; a hummingbird a "hominy bird." "He looks like he was picked green," a neighbor said of a pasty-faced friend of her son's. I laughed until my eyes teared, because he certainly did.

As a newspaper reporter, which was the work I found here, I loved the old folks I interviewed who can issue winter forecasts based on how high the white-faced hornets build their nests, or how tight shucks cling to the field corn. I loved my first country landlord for his ability to tell one kind of tree from another just by looking at its bark. I'd gone to college and grad school; I'd read thousands of books. But I didn't know

how to read the world the way my neighbors did—and I wanted to.

Like Gloria, I fell hopelessly in love with what some might call the backside of nowhere. What has surprised me has been that love's longevity—and the dividends it's paid. I didn't realize that I would learn far more than how to tell dogwood from locust, sourwood from maple (though I've learned to do that, and it's valuable enough, to my way of thinking).

For one thing, I'm schooled now in paying attention to what's right in front of my eyes; I'm learning to accept the world's gifts as they're doled out. A college friend came to visit last year, right at the height of the spring bird migration. While the rest of us were exulting at glimpses of chestnut-sided warblers and scarlet tanagers, she barely had time to look up—she was so busy working a bird identification course into her plans for when she got back home.

I've learned too that work is more than a four-letter word. "I thought that when Guy Silver reached retirement age, he'd get off his tractor and start going places on vacation," one of my neighbors told me. "But he didn't, and I realized after awhile that Guy loves what he does. He doesn't see riding that tractor as work; he sees it as life." And so I've learned to recognize writing stories, trellising the beans and weedeating around the raspberries not only as work but also as reward.

The cows graze, the birds court, the peas climb the chicken wire. I see them at their work while I'm at mine. We're all bound together. I'm rooted here now as tenaciously as the bindweed curling tendrils 'round my cornstalks, the multiflora rose anchored in our fields. Resting my back from a morning's hoeing, it amuses me to think that all over the world people are mired in gridlock, faceless in multitudes, seeking ways to stand out in the crowd. While out here in the hinterlands, people like me are finding ways to fit in.

Elizabeth Hunter, a writer and member of French Broad Electric Membership Corporation, lives in Mitchell County



Philip Morgan photos



Al and Yvonne Bessin
say that Mitchell County

is more like "home"
than Venezuela, Florida or California

Below Al and Yvonne Bessin's house, ewes and chocolate-colored lambs munch on grass enjoying its first spurt of spring growth. Peas poke through soil mulched with waste wool and straw. Beside the barn, a half-dozen registered Tunis rams thrust their heads through the gate. Cardboard boxes—each containing a single fleece—share space in the barn loft with the last of the winter's hay.

It's an idyllic setting in which to find former "corporate nomads" like the Bessins, who lost count after the first 17 moves of their married life. Al's work took them to Venezuela, Honduras, Costa Rica, Florida and the East Bay area of California before he opted for an "active retirement" in the western North Carolina mountains.

En route from Florida to Baltimore, they noted the beauty of the Blue Ridge. They checked out lots of property before choosing 100-plus long-neglected acres in the rural reaches of Mitchell County eight years ago. "We aren't country club-type people," says Al. "We were looking for space to do our kind of thing. We wanted to live an outdoor life—and we do."

The Bessins built a cabin—now one of their two vacation rentals—to live in while their house was under construction. "Our renters come from all over—we had five families from Europe last year," Yvonne says. "They arrive frazzled, but soon relax. Walking along the road, they notice that every time a car or truck passes, the driver waves. They love that—and remember it. Many return to buy property."

Part of the Bessins' land was pitted with defunct mica/feldspar mines and prospects. Fields were overgrown. Some of the wooded acreage had been damaged by forest fire. With help from the N.C. Forest Service and the

Cooperative Extension Service, they manage their farm as a Forest Stewardship Project.

Five years ago they started their sheep herd, now about 50 strong, with a half-dozen ewes and rams. "We had a few sheep in California and wanted to get back to that," says Yvonne, who spins and knits. She sells some excess wool to hand spinners; the rest goes to Bartlett Yarns in Harmony, Maine, to be "commercially made up into yarn, blankets and throws" that the Bessins market.

Al set up a sawmill where he converts trees felled by winter storms into usable lumber. "My four-by-fours are really four inches by four inches," he says proudly. "And you cannot imagine how satisfying it is to build a barn out of wood you've milled."

Because the sheep prefer weeds to grass, they are helping "bring the farm back," converting rose, poison ivy and honeysuckle thicket to pasture. The Tunis—a "minor breed"—originated in North Africa; George Washington and Thomas Jefferson both raised them. "They were the sheep of the South, and were nearly wiped out during the Civil War," Al says. Blessed with docile dispositions, they are valued both for their flavorful meat and their cream-colored wool.

For the Bessins—and neighbors like me—it's a treat to catch sight of grazing ewes and playful lambs pastured against the Toe River Valley's peaceful green, the rugged Black Mountains fringing the horizon. "We came here because western North Carolina is so scenic, and because it has four seasons—each beautiful in its own way," Al says. "We like the people we've met here. Most are independent, self-reliant, genuine—and manage well on relatively little. This is a wonderful place for our grandchildren to come visit."

By Elizabeth Hunter

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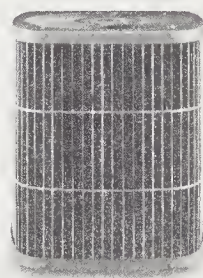
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Rake your own littlenecks at Hatteras Village Aqua Farm

by Carla Burgess

There's more to the newest Outer Banks tourist attraction than meets the eye. Scanning the calm, shallow waters of Sandy Bay along the edge of Pamlico Sound, you'd never guess what sits under the surface. Settled in the sand below two feet of brackish water are millions of clams, edible souvenirs ripe for the picking. But it's no surprise to Kevin Midgett. He planted those clams.

Welcome to the Hatteras Village Aqua Farm, where for a few dollars a person and around 24 cents a clam, anyone can be an old salt. Pull on your sandals, grab a mesh bag and rake the bottom for your own shellfish. You're guaranteed to get a sackful.

Kevin Midgett's rake-your-own clam business is probably the only one of its kind on the East Coast. And it's an idea whose time apparently has come. Midgett has been raising clams for market on the family's soundside property since 1982. But last summer he tried something new. He opened an acre and a half to the public. By October, thousands of novice shellfishermen had raked in 150,000 clams.

"Any place you can get access to the water and get to the sound with a rake, you can probably find clams," says Midgett. "It's just that there's very few of them."

And the "typical" rake-your-own customers know so little about clams that they might not even recognize one outside a bowl of chowder.

"The biggest question asked was, 'Do they bite?'" Kevin says, with a "really-I'm-serious" expression. "Halfway through the summer, we started saying, 'Yes, that's why we require you to wear shoes.'"

Of course, clams don't have teeth. But visitors learn more than that by the time they leave the shellfish farm. Before they wade knee-deep into the sound, they get a gander at Midgett's hatchery, where he raises clams from tiny granular larvae called "seed." From 200 adult clams, Midgett can spawn 100 million eggs. Only about 1 percent will make it to seed. This year, the Midgett farm bought baby clams to flesh out their inventory.

When I walked through the clam farm last October, 3 ½ million native "quahog" clams lay in 18 raceways in a soundside shelter perched on pilings. Water pumped in from the sound

poured over the trays. When Kevin Midgett dipped his hand into the water, the shy shellfish sucked in their gelatinous siphons. The M&M-sized clams were about 8 months old and ready to be placed outside with the other half-million already growing. Midgett spent the rest of the fall and winter planting the remaining clams on 17 acres of public bottom he leases from the state of North Carolina. In 2 ½ years, they'll grow to harvestable size — about an inch long.

Midgett places about 15,000 clams in each 14-by-20 foot plot. He stakes off the area, then rakes the beds to remove any eelgrass or predators such as skates and crabs.

"Then I take a bucket of clams out there and sprinkle them around on the bottom just like grass seed," he says. Finally he covers the bed with a net to ward off other predators such as puppydrum and seabirds. "Then ... just hope they survive."

Sounds a bit like regular farming.

"Pretty much," he agrees. "Just you're in two feet of water."

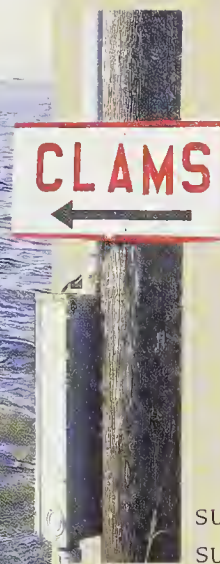
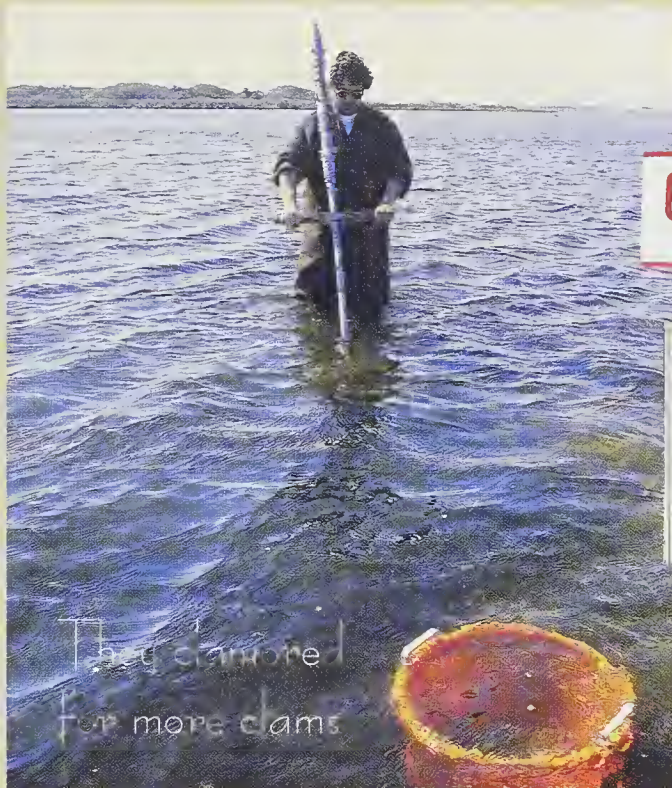
And there's the matter of a lease and all those permits.

Shellfish leases are hard to come by. Because the bottom must be set aside strictly for the grower, the criteria are strict. The state leases only 2,319 acres, which amounts to 303 individual leases. A few grow oysters, but most leases produce *Mercenaria mercenaria*, North Carolina's hard-shelled clam. The area must be suitable for growing clams or oysters, have scarce populations of wild shellfish and present minimal conflicts with such uses as recreation or navigation. And the grower must produce an average of 25 bushels per acre per year, says Jeff French, a marine biologist in the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries' resource enhancement office.

Farming operations like Midgett's have a lot to do with how clams get from the public plots to the public's pots. And aquaculture has provided welcome money-making alternatives for fishermen and farmers. Like a pick-your-own strawberry patch or fish-for-a-fee stocked trout pond, the self-service shellfish farm also sells an experience, while increasing the profit margin for the farmer.

Hatteras Village Aqua Farms is an account served by Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative. The fields are open to clam-mers from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is \$5 for adults and children over 12; \$3 for ages 6 to 12; and free for children under 6. Clams are sold separately. The farm borders Pamlico Sound less than a mile north of Hatteras village on Highway 12. For groups larger than 10, call in advance. (919) 986-2249.





Kevin Midgett knew the idea had merit. When friends from his native Virginia Beach came down to visit in summertime, they'd eventually tire of being beach bums and ask to help out with chores such as sorting the shellfish by size or gleaning the beds for missed clams.

"They seemed to have a good time at it," he says. Meanwhile, customers at the retail counter pelted him with questions about how he raised clams and how they grow. Just as blueberry growers will let visitors pay to pick the bushes clean at the end of the season, Midgett thought of letting visitors rake for clams he'd overlooked while harvesting. He'd set the price somewhere between what he could get wholesale and what they'd pay retail. It worked, but then customers clamored for more clams.

At the same time, a national funding agency and an administrator at the North Carolina Sea Grant College Program in Raleigh were looking for a partner to try out a similar idea. The National Coastal Resources Research and Development Institute

was providing money to test new nature-based tourism opportunities. And Sea Grant's Jim Murray was ruminating on a notion he'd had since childhood.

"Our family used to rent a beach house outside of Provincetown, Massachusetts toward the tip of Cape Cod," says Murray, who oversees the coastal research program's Marine Advisory Service. "The gentleman that owned the cabins used to put

surf clams in the surf. He actually used to plant them for the tourists and the vacationers that rented his cabins on the Cape. I always had that in the back of my mind as sort of a fun thing to do when you're

at the beach."

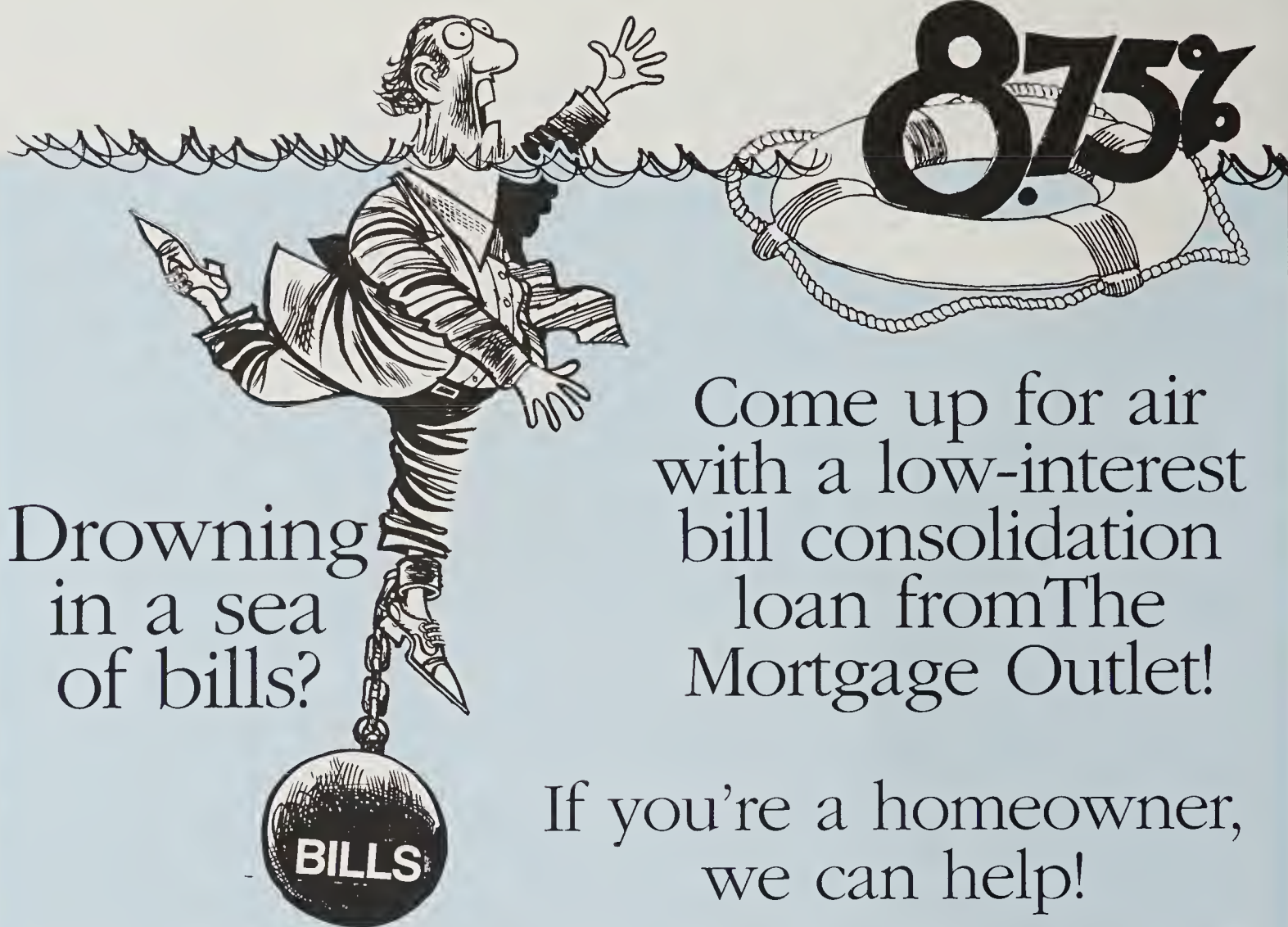
Murray and a Sea Grant shellfish specialist wrote a proposal designating Kevin Midgett as a partner, and the governmental gods smiled on it. Ultimately, a \$60,000 grant paid for Murray's time developing the project, a graduate student laborer, start-up equipment such as rakes and bags, paid advertising and promotional fliers, and a supplemental supply of larger clams such as cherrystones, topcherrys and chowders (Midgett grows only the smaller grade of quahog clam, known as "littlenecks." Small and tender, they're favored by connoisseurs, but he says most tourists rummage for the fist-size chowder clams.) The assistance gave Midgett a sort of lifeboat for uncharted waters. In return, his experience will provide a blueprint for other East Coast entrepreneurs who'd like to take the plunge.

But the job isn't for everyone. Plenty of farmers and fishermen love their work and thrive on reaping an independent living from the earth and sea. Many would just as soon talk to a clam as chatter with the public. But the 33-year-old Midgett has an affinity to both. He's been tinkering with aquaculture since he first tried setting out clam seed on the estuary floor in bread trays, and he developed his rapport with the public early on, making beds, sweeping floors and greeting customers in the family's Norfolk motel at age 7. He went on to work numerous jobs in sales and management, marketing everything from candy, rent-to-own TVs and home building supplies. Besides peddling clams at the Aqua Farm, he sells sodas, snacks, drink huggers, footwear, hats and "Happy Clammer" T-shirts. And when he opened again to tourists last Easter, he resumed selling the experience of clamming to people who dig 'em.

Carla Burgess is a freelance writer in Raleigh.



Kevin Midgett with a rake full of littlenecks.



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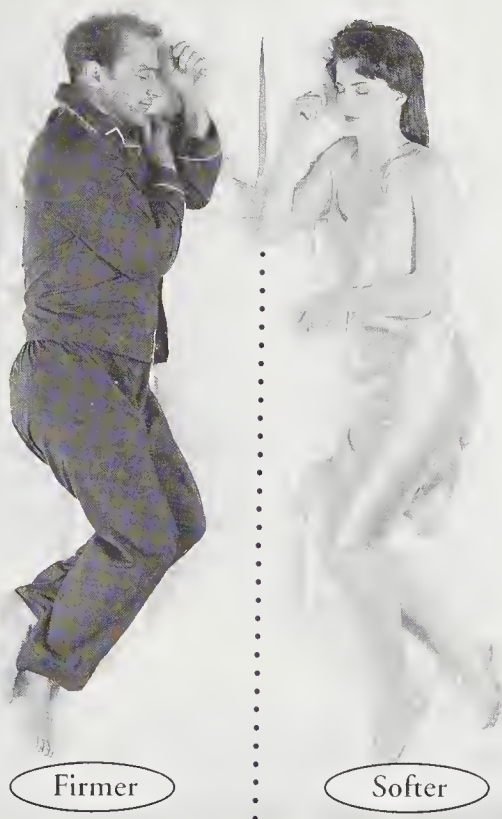
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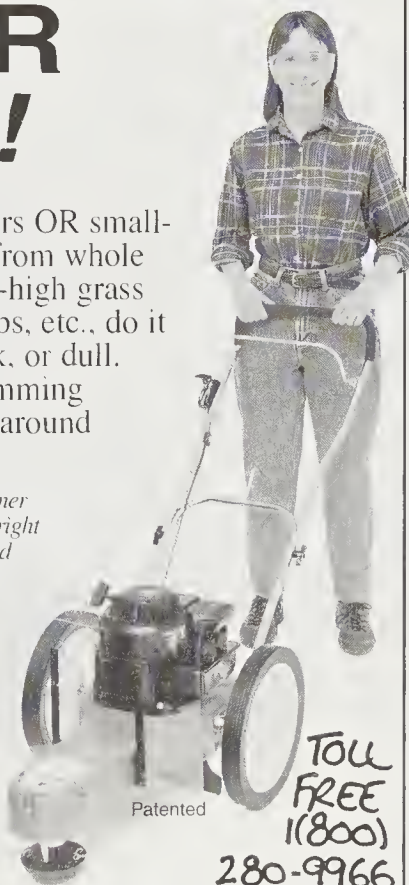
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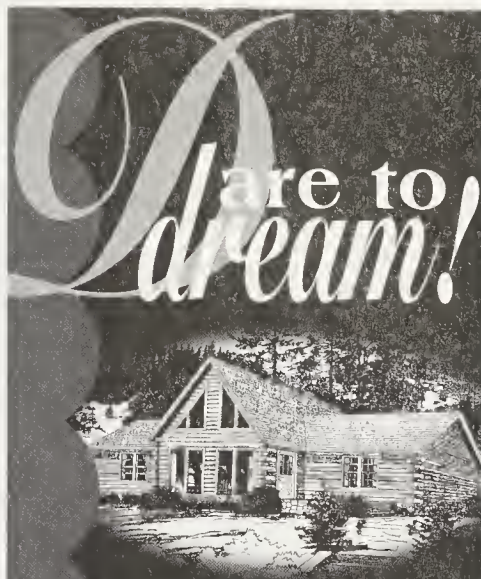
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A buyer's guide
by Sharon O'Malley

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Most people have answering machines at home these days. Now, you can have one that talks not only to your caller but to you, too. The Edge Co.'s field phone/digital answering machine combo tells you when the machine is on or off ("The unit is off," it says, or, "The unit is on"). The machine also tells you the day and time each call was received. It runs without messy tapes, holds up to 13 minutes of messages and allows you to automatically return calls by pressing a number from a 25-number memory. To order the \$139.95 field phone and answering machine, call (800) 732-9979.

4 Read to me.

Xerox has introduced a portable reading machine that scans your books and magazines and then reads them out loud. The \$5,495 Reading Edge is being used in homes, schools, libraries and companies that deal with people who are visually impaired. The reading machine has Braille editing capabilities, so users can edit their documents. Its synthetic speech may be adjusted to talk faster or slower (or in another language). And there's a headphone jack for private listening. For information, contact the Reading Edge by calling (800) 248-6550, extension 1.

5 Bull's eye.

Take the guesswork out of dart throwing: This talking dart board announces your hits on specific numbers ("single," "double," "bull's eye," "double bull," etc.). The electronic game contains an internal computer programmed with 15 challenging games — and it keeps score for one to four players. AC adaptor is included. It costs \$298 from The Sharper Image catalog. Call (800) 444-4444 for a catalog.

Wildflowers of the Blue Ridge Parkway

by William Weekes

When the southern Appalachian sun touches the Blue Ridge National Parkway, you can see among the wildflowers that there's a time and place for everything.

The 469-mile undulating ribbon of the Parkway serves up an array of blooms that can be relished from Ides of March through Columbus Day.

Now 61 years old, the Parkway defers to its wildflowers—not only with mowing policies designed to preserve and protect them, but also with updated bloom calendars pinpointing locations of more than 100 flowering species that highlight the 1,250 different vascular plants found along the Parkway from Cherokee, N.C. to Waynesboro, Va.

Who are among these floral headliners?

Early in the season, field pansies blanket the Parkway's grassy glades while bloodroot's white brilliance punctuates brown banks. April is yellow, white and blue month, when golden ragwort and cresses (*Barbarea*s) stand in ditches between steep slopes and flattened asphalt, and purple violets poke up everywhere.

May brings ox-eye daisy and daisy fleabane. Ragwort swells with greater abundance in June, while lyre-leaved sage and hawkweed emerge as sidekick attractions. By July 4, spiderworts, sunflowers, golden Alexander and columbine wave their petals patriotically.

A Ribbon of Floral Finery



Turk's Cap Lily

August is for black-eyed susans, turtleheads, Joe-Pye weed and coneflowers, while goldenrod and asters come to the fore among a chorus of floral faces singing the September song.

From week to week, certainly from month to month, there's a changing of the guard among floral headliners along the Parkway. Even within a given day species dominance changes, depending on where you are. Take the 30 miles going north from Asheville, for instance. Compare early May with early June. Instead of dwarf iris splotching May-time understories with purple blooms, in June you get the same hue from the spiderwort.

Instead of mid-spring's lady slippers and trillium, you get June's evening primrose and hairy beardtongue abounding. Instead of wild geranium and pussytoes being plentiful as in May, you get June busting out with Bowman's root and ox-eye daisy. Instead of being full of phacelia and hispid buttercup in May, you're full of firepink and flaming azalea in June.

On the Parkway, variety is not only the spice of life—it IS life—floral life. The Blue Ridge Parkway is rivaled only by the Smoky Mountains in wildflower variety. Both fall within what famed naturalist Donald Culross Peattie noted as, "one of the great floral provinces of the earth."

Where to see the wildflowers of the Blue Ridge National Parkway

Look near these mile markers.

Golden Ragwort (*Senecio aureus*). Mile 394

Goat's Beard (*Aruncus dioicus*). Mile 172

Crown Vetch (*Coronilla varia*). Mile 126

Dame's Rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*). Mile 155

Canada Violet (*Cirsium arvense*). Mile 374

Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*). Mile 125

Day Lily (*Hemerocallis fulva*). Mile 66

Viper's Bugloss (*Echium vulgare*). Mile 20

White Trillium (*T. grandiflorum*). Mile 460

Wintercress (*Barbarea*). Mile 194

Elecampane (*Inula helenium*). Mile 1

Moccasin Flower (*Cypripedium acaule*). Mile 379

Black Cohosh (*Cicicifuga racemosa*). Mile 318

Queen Anne's Lace (*Daucus carota*). Mile 6

White Snakeroot (*Eupatorium rugosum*). Mile 417

Field Pansy (*Viola kitaibelliana*). Mile 388

Turk's Cap Lily (*Lilium superbum*). Mile 41

Joe Pye Weed (*Eupatorium*). Mile 205

Goldenrod (*Solidago*). Mile 417

Daisy Fleabane (*Erigeron*). Mile 278



Viper's Bugloss

William Weekes contributed his photoessay "Tree Talk" to the March issue of *Carolina Country*.

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	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
20	8.34	8.34	12.50	12.50	25.00	25.00	45.84	45.84
21	8.34	8.34	12.50	12.50	25.00	25.00	45.84	45.84
22	8.34	8.34	12.50	12.50	25.00	25.00	45.84	45.84
23	8.34	8.34	12.50	12.50	25.00	25.00	45.84	45.84
24	8.34	8.34	12.50	12.50	25.00	25.00	45.84	45.84
25	8.34	8.34	12.50	12.50	25.00	25.00	45.84	45.84
26	8.34	8.34	12.50	12.50	25.00	25.00	45.84	45.84
27	8.34	8.34	12.50	12.50	25.00	25.00	45.84	45.84
28	8.34	8.34	12.50	12.50	25.00	25.00	45.84	45.84
29	8.34	8.34	12.50	12.50	25.00	25.00	45.84	45.84
30	8.34	8.34	12.50	12.50	25.00	25.00	45.84	45.84
31	8.34	8.34	12.50	12.50	25.00	25.00	45.84	45.84
32	8.34	8.34	12.50	12.50	25.00	25.00	45.84	45.84
33	8.34	8.34	12.50	12.50	25.00	25.00	45.84	45.84
34	8.34	8.34	12.50	12.50	25.00	25.00	45.84	45.84
35	8.34	8.34	12.50	12.50	25.00	25.00	45.84	45.84
36	8.38	8.34	12.59	12.50	25.21	25.00	46.25	45.84
37	8.42	8.34	12.67	12.50	25.42	25.00	46.67	45.84
38	8.46	8.34	12.75	12.50	25.63	25.00	47.09	45.84
39	8.50	8.34	12.84	12.50	25.84	25.00	47.50	45.84
40	8.55	8.38	12.92	12.59	26.05	25.21	47.92	46.25
41	8.59	8.42	13.00	12.67	26.25	25.42	48.34	46.67
42	8.65	8.46	13.09	12.75	26.46	25.63	48.75	47.08
43	8.67	8.50	13.17	12.84	26.67	25.84	49.17	47.50

MONTHLY RATES

Issue Age	\$50,000		\$100,000		\$250,000		\$500,000	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
44	8.71	8.55	13.25	12.92	26.88	26.05	49.59	47.92
45	8.75	8.59	13.34	13.00	27.09	26.25	50.00	48.34
46	8.96	8.65	13.75	13.09	28.13	26.46	52.09	48.75
47	9.38	8.67	14.59	13.17	30.21	26.67	56.25	49.17
48	9.80	8.71	15.42	13.25	32.30	26.88	60.42	49.59
49	10.21	8.75	16.25	13.34	34.38	27.09	64.59	50.00
50	10.63	8.96	17.09	13.75	36.46	28.13	68.75	52.09
51	11.05	9.38	17.92	14.59	38.55	30.21	72.92	56.25
52	11.46	9.80	18.75	15.42	40.63	32.30	77.09	60.42
53	12.09	10.21	20.00	16.25	43.75	34.38	83.34	64.59
54	12.71	10.63	21.25	17.09	46.88	36.46	89.59	68.75
55	13.55	11.05	22.92	17.92	51.05	38.55	97.92	72.92
56	14.38	11.46	24.59	18.75	55.21	40.63	106.25	77.09
57	15.21	12.09	26.25	20.00	59.38	43.75	114.59	83.34
58	16.05	12.71	27.92	21.25	63.55	46.88	122.92	89.59
59	17.09	13.55	30.00	22.92	68.75	51.05	133.34	97.92
60	22.09	14.38	40.00	24.59	93.75	55.21	183.34	106.25
61	23.13	15.21	42.09	26.25	98.96	59.38	193.75	114.59
62	24.17	16.05	44.17	27.92	104.17	63.55	204.17	122.92
63	25.42	17.09	46.67	30.00	110.42	68.75	216.67	133.34
64	26.67	22.09	49.17	40.00	116.67	93.75	229.17	183.34
65	28.13	23.13	52.09	42.09	123.96	98.96	243.75	193.75
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Other amounts available upon request. Premiums are based on applicant's age at issuance of policy. Policies are non-cancellable as long as premiums are paid. Premiums may be paid annually, semi-annually and monthly bank draft only. (A no-cost medical exam may be required depending on age, health or amount of coverage desired). Policies above are annual renewable and convertible term. Policy Form No. L-ORD-5101-91. Level Death Benefit to age 85. Premiums increase annually. Underwritten by United Services Life Insurance Company, Arlington, VA 22203. Established in 1937. Over \$21 Billion of Life Insurance in Force as of 12/31/95. Death Benefit payable for Natural or Accidental Death. NOT AVAILABLE IN ALL STATES.

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Mixing politics, arts and mountains at An Appalachian Summer Festival



Emerging as a leading arts festival in the southeast, "An Appalachian Summer Festival" in Boone will be presented June 28 to July 26 on the campus of Appalachian State University. Named among the "top 20 events in the southeast" by the Southeast Tourism Society, the festival offers classical, jazz and folk concerts, ballet and modern dance, theater performances and visual art exhibits — supplemented by lectures, workshops and an international film series. The theme for this year's season is "politics and the arts."

The quality of the program and the Blue Ridge Mountains setting annually attracts an amiable mix of summer residents, art lovers, tourists, local residents and the university community.

The opening gala June 28 includes dancing to Guy Lombardo's Royal Canadians in the Broyhill Inn's ballroom. Call (704) 262-6084 for reservations.

Most performance tickets cost \$16 for adults, \$9 for students and \$2 for children age 12 and under. Film tickets are \$7. Several educational events are free. Season tickets and other discount packages are available. Contact An Appalachian Summer Festival at (800) 841-ARTS, or in the Boone area 262-4046.



Parsons Dance Company

Music

Three concerts by the North Carolina Symphony, six concerts by Broyhill Chamber Ensemble, and pre-concert lectures by William Harbinson and Gerhardt Zimmermann. Classical guitarist Douglas James.

An Appalachian Heritage Concert starring Timmy Abell, Laura Boosinger and Livingston Taylor. Two jazz shows with The Brubeck Brothers and Dave McKenna in Tradewinds Coffeehouse.

Dance

Atlanta Ballet performing works set to Haydn, Prokofiev and Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake;" NCNY Dance featuring dancers from Paul Taylor Dance Company; Broyhill Chamber Ensemble; and Parsons Dance Company in a return engagement.

Theater

"Enter the Actress," a world premiere with Claire Bloom, celebrating women in theater.

Film

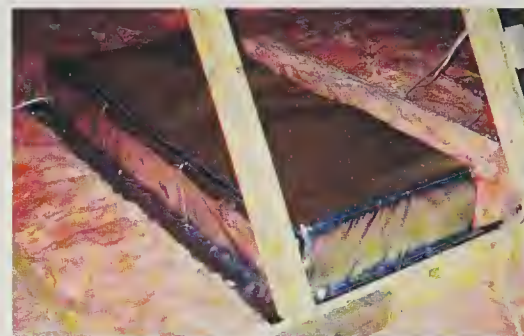
Films preceded by discussion include "The Marriage of Maria Braun" and "A Face in the Crowd."

Visual Arts

11th Rosen Outdoor Sculpture Competition & Exhibition, the Halpert Biennial competition of two-dimensional works, a visual arts workshop series, children's art workshop and book arts workshop.

Other Events

Children's creative writing workshop, lecture series on politics and the arts, 20th Century Series and panel discussions.



Attic Tent closed

This tent seals an attic opening

A former aircraft mechanic in Iredell County has developed the "Attic Tent" designed to reduce conditioned air loss and heat transfer between the attic and home living space. It is considered as effective an insulator as a double-paned window.

The Attic Tent is the first product to be broadly marketed by Steve L. Williams' business, InsulSure. Williams is a member of Crescent Electric Membership Corporation.

The tent is designed to fit either of the two main sizes of attic stair openings: 22 by 54 inches and 25 by 54 inches. It permanently mounts in the attic over attic folding stairs.

There are six steps involved in installing the tent, and instructions are included. Steps are to measure, caulk, clean, attach, staple, and place the tent.

The Attic Tent was given a positive evaluation by the N.C. Alternative Energy Corporation (supported by the state's utilities, including North Carolina's electric cooperatives).

The Attic Tent is available for \$149.99 (plus \$16 shipping). Call (800) 923-7609.

For more information, contact Steve Williams at InsulSure, P.O. Box 553, Mt. Mourne, NC 28123. Phone: (704) 660-5640.



Attic Tent open

Southern Highlands Craft Fair marks 50 years

The first craft exhibition in the South returns to downtown Asheville for its 50th year. The Craft Fair of the Southern Highlands will be held on July 17-20 and Oct. 16-19 in the Asheville Civic Center.

The mission of the Southern Highland Craft Guild is to bring together the crafts and craftspeople of the southern highlands for the benefit of shared resources, education, marketing and conservation.

The 1997 fairs will feature some demonstrators who participated in the first fair in 1948. Also showcased will be entertainment by regional performers, craft demonstrations, the Living Craft Exhibit and a special pictorial history of the fair through five decades. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday through Sunday. Admission charge is \$5 for adults and free for children under 12.

Contact the Southern Highland Craft Guild, P.O. Box 9545, Asheville, NC 28815. Phone: (704) 298-7928.

"Cornwallis was here"

Harmony Hall, one of the oldest plantation sites in southeastern North Carolina, was built by Col. James Richardson in 1760 and commandeered by British General Charles Cornwallis during the Revolution.

On over 100 acres 22 miles east of Fayetteville, the plantation has been restored to its 1760 style with Shaw McMillian Kitchen, Harmony Hall General Store, Harmony Hall Chapel and Colly District School. Broom making, soap making, outdoor cooking, blacksmithing and a wide variety of entertainment enliven this plantation. Wagon and carriage rides are available. Volunteers in period costume provide tours.

Harmony Hall Plantation is open every Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. Contact Historic Harmony Hall, P.O. Box 279, White Oak, NC 28399. Phone: (910) 866-4256.



Tim Barnwell photo

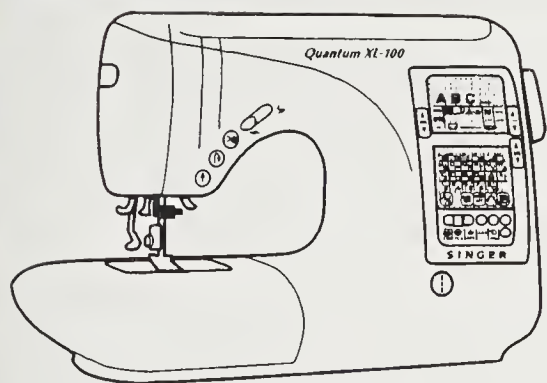
Craft guild pottery demonstration, Don Davis.

Catawba cookbook helps restore 1873 house

The Catawba Historical Association has published a collection of over 150 recipes. Proceeds from the sale of the cookbook will benefit restoration of the Dr. Quintus M. Little House, built in 1873. The association plans to operate the renovated house as a museum containing information on the history, architecture, culture and life of the town of Catawba. The museum will serve as an educational resource for schools, historians, teachers, the people of Catawba County and visitors. It will also serve as a meeting place and setting for social events.

The cookbook's recipes, submitted by members and friends, include appetizers, salads, soups, main dishes, vegetables, breads, desserts and beverages. To order it, send \$8 (plus \$3 shipping) to Town of Catawba Historical Association, P.O. Box 147, Catawba, NC 28609. Phone: (704) 241-4077.

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Answer each clue and write the word in the numbered boxes. Then match these boxes with the boxes in the message below to reveal an interesting fact about North Carolina.

1. Our state's largest city

2	5	1	10	7	9	12	12	3	

2. Royal Governor Tryon's palace was in this county

2	10	1	13	3	8

3. Cherokee Indian Reservation is in this county

11	14	1	6	8

4. The Brevard area is called the land of ...

14	1	12	3	10	4	1	7	7	11

Message

4	6	13	3

8	9	10	12	5

2	1	10	9	7	6	8	1

10	6	13	3	10	11

4	7	9	14

14	3	11	12

Domi-No.s

P	O	W	E	R
	2			

0	1
---	---

2	3
---	---

4	5
---	---

6	7
---	---

8	9
---	---

	P
x	

L	I	G	H	T
---	---	---	---	---

Each letter in this multiplication problem stands for a numeral. Repeated letters stand for repeated numerals. Can you place the correct red numerals on these Domi-No.s to mathematically get light from power?

You might find it easier to cut out the red numerals and place them on the puzzle.

Unscramble It!

Brasstown, in Clay County, might have been more aptly named Grasstown. The name comes from an Indian word meaning

“
 _ _ _ _ _
 e m u n s l c
 _ _ _ _ _
 c i s t a r i s s b
 ”

Use the capital letters below to fill in the blanks above

“A C E F G H L N O P R S”
 means u n s c r a m b l e i t

(solutions on page 38)

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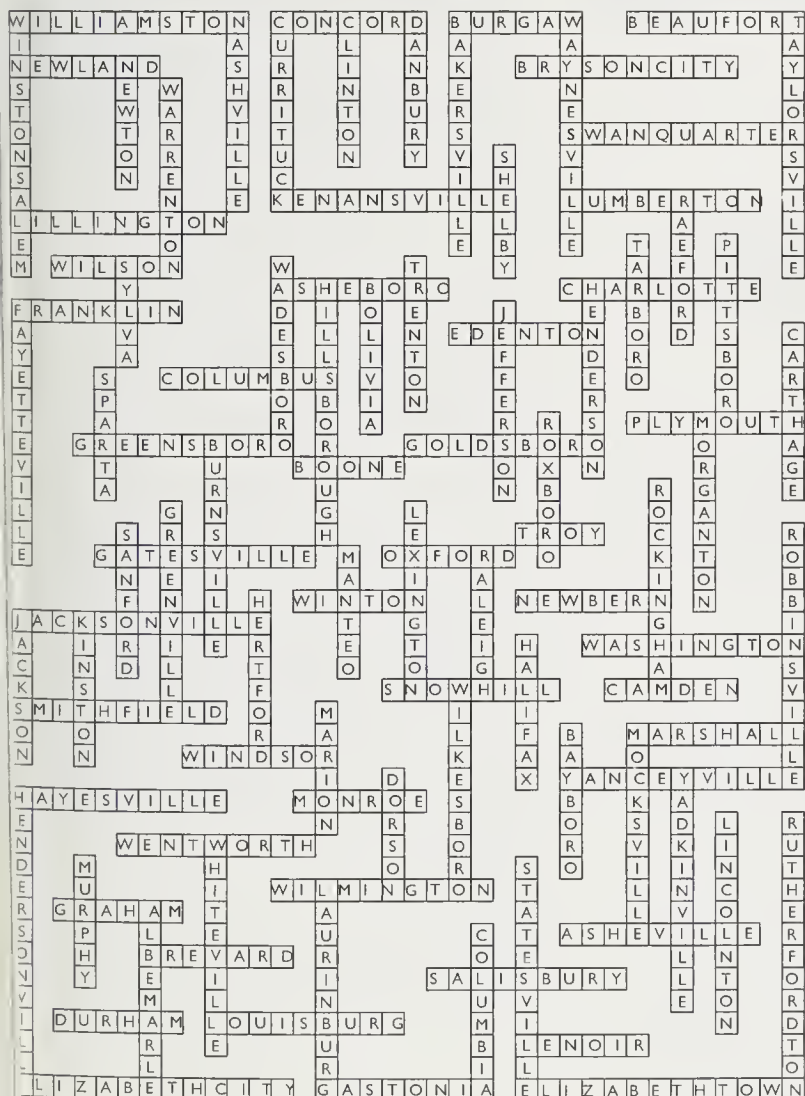
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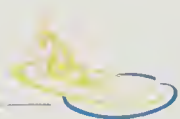


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Block Party

June 5, Shelby

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Listen and Remember

Beginning June 7, Waxhaw

33rd annual historical outdoor drama about
the life and times of Andrew Jackson and
the people of the Waxhaw settlement. At
Waxhaw Amphitheater. \$8, \$3 for children
12 and under, \$5 for seniors. Discount
advance tickets available. Fridays and
Saturdays at 8:30 p.m. (704) 843-2300.

Military Antiques Show

June 7-8, Raleigh

Arms and memorabilia exhibit, trade and
sale. Civil War, Indian War, WWI, WWII. North
Carolina State Fair Grounds. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
Saturday; 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Sunday.
Adults \$5, children \$1. (704) 282-1339.

Standard First Aid

June 9, 11, Lexington

American Red Cross classes. Lexington-
Davidson County Chapter. 6 to 10 p.m.
\$30. (910) 248-2205.

Antique Power Festival

June 13-14, Albemarle

Antique tractor and pedal pull, exhibits,
crafts, auction. Stanly County Fairgrounds.
8 a.m. \$4. (704) 982-6707.

Craft Show and Sale

June 13-14, Brevard

Juried show of wood crafts, needlework,
floral displays, dolls and doll furniture.
Brevard College. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free.
(704) 883-2880.

"Romance of the Garden Tour"

June 13-14, Hickory

3rd annual tour of gardens. Peter Lower,
author and featured guest speaker. Hickory
Landmarks Society. 7 p.m., Friday; 10 a.m.
to 6 p.m., Saturday. (704) 322-4731.

Memorial Festival

June 14, West Jefferson

Old-time music in memory of Albert Hash,
craftsman and musician. Ashe Civic Center.
2 to 11 p.m. \$5. (910) 246-4483.

Gospel Play

June 15, Kings Mountain

"I Was Lost, But Now I'm Found." Barnes
Auditorium at Kings Mountain High
School. 5 p.m. Adults \$10, children free.
(704) 734-5637.

Summertime on the Plantation

June 17-20, 24-27, Huntersville

One-time trip to the plantation. All day-
cares, schools and home schools welcome.
Historic Latta Plantation. 10 a.m. to noon.
\$5 per child. (704) 875-2312.

Barbershop Quartets

June 20, West Jefferson

An evening with Fred (ranked 8th world-
wide) and Hickory-based Acappella Fellas.
Blue Ridge Elementary School, 7:30 p.m.
\$8 adults, \$4 students. Ashe County
Arts Council, (910) 246-2787.

Singing on the Mountain

June 22, Linville

All-day music convention of gospel groups.
Special guest speaker, Rev. Jerry Falwell.
The Meadow of Grandfather Mountain.
Music begins at 8:30 a.m. Falwell speaks at
2 p.m. Free. (704) 733-4337.

AVA Convention Walk

June 22, Salisbury

American Volkssport Association. 5 km
and 10 km walk. Dan Nicholas Park.
8 a.m. to noon. (704) 279-3282.

Jazz Concert

June 23, Southern Pines

Outdoor performance of Sandhills
Community College Jazz Band. Sandhills
Community College. Picnic at 4:30 p.m.,
performance at 6 p.m. Free. (910) 692-6185.

Community CPR

June 24, 26, Lexington

American Red Cross classes. Lexington-
Davidson County Chapter. 6 to 10 p.m. \$30.
(910) 248-2205.

Riverfest

June 27-29, Plymouth

Amusement rides, petting contest, pony
rides, singing, dancing and fireworks.
Plymouth waterfront. 9:30 a.m., Friday and
Saturday. Free. (919) 793-4804.

17th Annual Singing

June 27-29, Chandler

Area's top gospel singing groups. Hominy
Valley Singing Grounds. 7 p.m. Adults \$8,
children free. (704) 667-8502.

Heritage Day and Wood Kiln Opening

June 28, Lenoir

Corn grinding, quilting, butter churning,
mountain music. Bolick Family Pottery.
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free. (704) 295-3862.

Old Threshers' Reunion

July 2-6, Denton

Steam, gas and antique farm machinery
demonstrations. Steam train rides,
petting farm, horse and tractor pulls, and
country music. Denton Farm Park. 8 a.m.
Adults \$10, children \$6. (910) 859-2755.

4th of July Celebration

July 3-4, Wake Forest

Thursday, fireworks show, historical pro-
gram and music by the Band of Oz. Wake
Forest/Rolesville High School Stadium.
Friday, children's parade, arts, games, food.
North Main Street.

Arts and Crafts

July 4-6, Highlands

Juried arts and crafts show, live
entertainment and food. Sassafras
Gap Campground. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Adults \$1, children free. (704) 526-3181.

"Freedom Festival"

July 4-6, Lake Junaluska

1997 craft shows. Haywood County Fair-
grounds. 12 to 7 p.m., Friday; 9 a.m. to 5
p.m., Saturday; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday.
Free. (704) 962-0761.

State Checker Tournament

July 4-6, Sanford

1997 North Carolina Open. Palomino
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at 10 a.m. Registration \$10, first-time
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(800) 641-6060.

Christmas in July

July 4-6, West Jefferson

Crafts, food and entertainment downtown.
Friday 8-11 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-11 p.m.,
Sunday 1-5 p.m. (910) 246-9550.

Ongoing Events

Quilt Exhibit and Sale

through June 28, Boone

"The Common Thread Quilters Cut Loose." Over 30 small quilts, wall quilts and miniature quilts. The Mazie Jones Gallery in the Jones House. Wednesday through Saturday, 1 to 5 p.m. Free. (704) 295-3273.

An Appalachian Summer Festival

June 28-July 26, Boone

Classical, jazz and folk concerts. Ballet and modern dance, theater performances and visual arts exhibits. Appalachian State University. 8 p.m. Ticket prices vary. (704) 262-4046.

Art Exhibition

through June 30, Hickory

Oil paintings by Judy Browne of Gastonia. More Art Gallery in Valley Hills Mall. Open daily during mall hours; closed Sunday. Free. (704) 495-7736.

Transportation Museum Opens

through Oct. 31, Spencer

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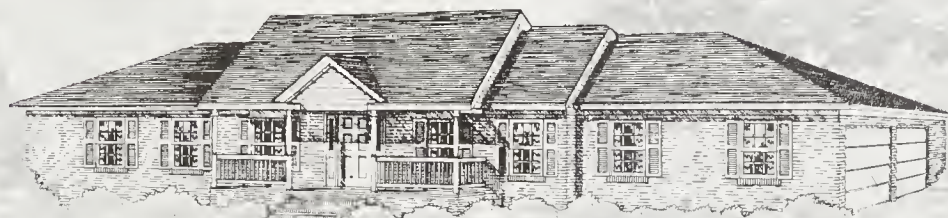
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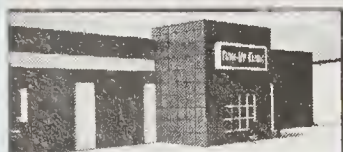
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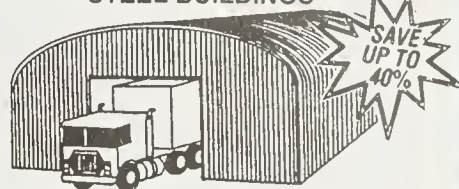
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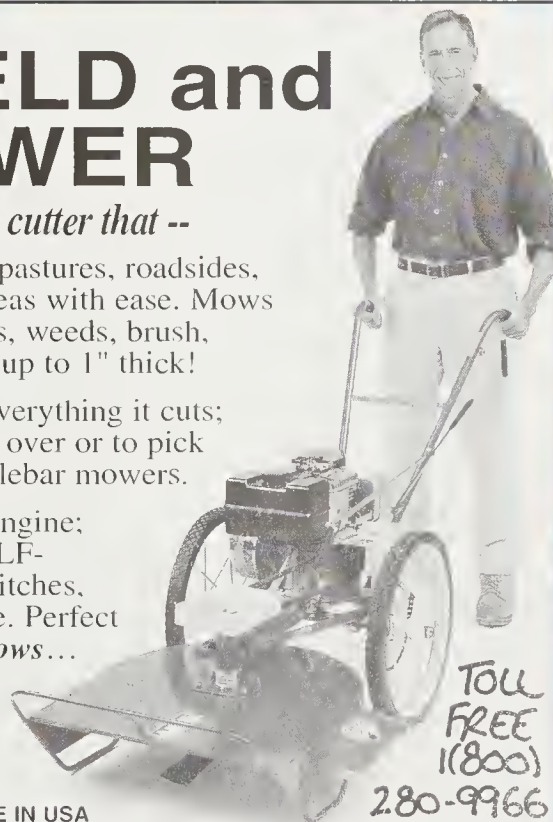
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by Hank Smith

June's a busy month for gardeners. It's time to root cuttings of favorite shrubs and trees, using mature wood of this season's growth. Any additional plants for the landscape should be planted soon. It's time for fertilizing, pruning, spraying, and watering if rainfall has been scant. Make frequent garden inspections to spot insects on vegetables, fruit trees and flowers. Attack before they get out of hand. High humidity and warm air promote increases in insects and diseases. Make use of cooler temperatures of late afternoons and early mornings for spraying, dusting, fertilizing and watering.



Pinching chrysanthemums

By now, some mums are ready to be pinched back. Pinching forces plants to grow into stocky specimens and causes more branching to form flower buds later on. Pinching should be practiced every 2 or 3 weeks until late June or early July. Tip growth that is pinched out is easily rooted in coarse damp sand. In three weeks you'll have another rooted plant. By autumn these rooted cuttings will have grown into blooming-size plants.

Rambler roses

Rambler roses—the ones that flower in clusters and send up new canes from the earth each year—should be pruned after they have finished flowering. Cut old canes (stems) back to the ground. Leave the strong new ones to produce next spring's blooms.

Dahlias

Now is the time for planting dahlias for autumn blooms. Many of the prizewinners at flower shows are from tubers planted in June. Cut away any diseased spots on the tuber; dust with sulfur before planting.

Annual flowers

There's still time to achieve a colorful display from annual flowers. Seed of the following, if planted before the end of this month, will bloom before early frost in autumn: sweet alyssum, cockscomb, four-o'clock, salvia, cosmos, ageratum, balsam, sunflower, periwinkle, torenia, zinnia, marigold, petunia, coleus and portulaca. If you have excess seed of annuals and vegetables, reseal packages and save for next season. Not all of them will germinate, but enough to make it worth the trouble.

Propagate evergreens

You can root the cuttings of your favorite evergreens. Make 6-inch cuttings, removing foliage from the bottom half. Treat the cut end with a root-inducing hormone available at the garden centers. For the rooting medium, use moist sand, vermiculite, peat moss, or a mixture of these or similar materials. Keep humidity high. Placing the rooting box or pot in a closed plastic bag often helps.

Vegetable gardening

Although most vegetable crops are in the ground by now, there's still time to plant seeds of beans, field peas, squash, corn, cantaloupe and pumpkins. Also set transplants of tomatoes and peppers. With warm weather at hand, take special precautions with transplants; they can wilt and die under hot sun. To prevent transplant shock, water deeply immediately after planting. Apply a starter fertilizer solution to plants. Shade each plant with

newspaper, a board, or some other shading material. Check plants regularly for insect pests. Should you note a light infestation, merely pick off the harmful worms, bugs, or beetles and destroy them. Do the same with egg masses. If your vegetable plot is small and plants are checked frequently, you'll have little need for chemical insecticides.

Prune evergreens

The finest evergreens soon will become unsightly unless pruned every year. About a half of the new growth should be removed before mid-July. However, the central tip of an evergreen should not be removed unless the tree has reached the height it is to remain in the landscape scheme. Old evergreens grown into trees should not be pruned at all. Pines, spruces and firs have a growth form that is like the letter "Y" with a central prong. About half this year's growth of the prong should be cut away. Taxus or yew, arborvitae, hemlock and most of the junipers may be pruned with a sharp knife or hedge shears. Boxwood should be pruned with a sharp pocketknife while holding each young shoot over the index finger. Always prune at a slant, just above a leaf where there is an immature growth bud located between the leaf and the stem.

Summer cultivation

Newly set trees and shrubs should have a generous circle of cultivated soil around them. This keeps grass, ground covers and weeds from competing with them for moisture. When a drought threatens, a shallow depression in soil around the trunk into which water can be applied also helps. In many ways, a soil covering or mulch around these plants is even better than cultivation. Sometimes both the soil depression and mulch are used. You can easily pull any sprouting weeds from moist soil.

Landscape planning

J.W. Goethe once said, "No one is ever at ease in a garden unless it looks like open country." Most of today's landscapers agree that the feeling of spaciousness as found in open sweeps of lawn is much to be desired in today's home yard. In addition to giving the yard an orderly, planned appearance, there is less work in maintenance. When flower beds and specimen shrubs are pushed back and grouped to the side, it is easier to mow and tend the lawn.

Extend the rose show

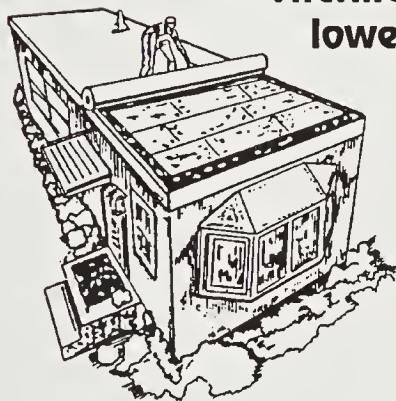
Roses need not stop growing and blooming during hot summer months. Keep them fertilized, watered and free of insects and diseases. A good, deep mulch will help the water situation if rainfalls are far between. Fertilizing once a month with a complete fertilizer as 8-8-8 or 10-10-10 will keep new growth and flower buds coming.



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The first thing I did when I moved into my house was replace the old wood front door with an insulated steel one with super-efficient etched and beveled glass. The reduction in energy-wasting, chilly drafts and outdoor noise was very noticeable.

With more advanced manufacturing processes to form and finish the steel skin, many insulated steel doors these days are difficult to distinguish from real wood doors. Crisper and deeper edge definition creates sharper shadows and relief for an authentic wood appearance. Steel doors are literally maintenance-free and secure against intruders.

For the most realistic wood appearance, select one of several types of stainable and grained steel doors. One designer series, Acclaim, has a 10-mil thick (about as thick as four pieces of paper) vinyl coating baked onto the steel. The surface is embossed with a pattern made from real wood grain. It can be stained like real wood or painted.

Another design, Signature series, has a real natural oak wood veneer permanently bonded to an efficient insulated steel door core. The basic core is a one-inch thick insulated steel door. The only way to distinguish it from a real solid wood door is that it does not shrink or grow with the changes of the seasons.

Various glass options can make your door efficient, unique and attractive - leaded or brass casing, etched, beveled, frosted, glue chip, etc. For the best comfort, efficiency and noise reduction, choose double or triple pane, low-emissivity (low-e) glass with insulating inert argon gas in the gap. Weathershield offers triple pane glass with double low-e coatings and krypton gas in the gaps. This creates a center-of-glass insulation value as high as R-10.

An insulated steel door is one of the most secure designs against intruders. The steel skin is difficult to break through. When evaluating the strength of the door, remember that a smaller steel gauge number indicates a thicker and stronger steel skin. Many doors use heavy wood or ABS plastic (used for golf club heads) lock blocks that are very rugged. For the best security, choose a

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Several new features can increase security even more. One, Alert Lock, has a built-in battery-operated burglar alarm. You can set the door so that when it is locked, the alarm is set. Any shaking of the door sets off a loud alarm for two minutes. Since it takes longer than this to break through a steel door, the burglar will run. The shaking sensitivity is adjustable to eliminate false alarms from pets or the wind.

Another security feature is a multipoint deadbolt lock. The deadbolt hooks into the frame in three locations

spaced from top to bottom. It is operated by a durable metal rack and pinion system hidden inside the door. All of the parts of multipoint locks are made of heavy solid brass. With a steel frame too, it is virtually impossible to break in.

Steel skin construction makes these doors efficient and maintenance-free. Many steel doors have insulating foam injected into the hollow door providing an insulation value up to R-10.8. Other designs use a preformed rigid foam piece that is bonded inside the door during construction. Both are effective at blocking heat transfer and outdoor noise transmission.

Since steel does not grow or shrink with humidity changes, it remains airtight. Choose a steel door that uses magnetic (refrigerator-type) weatherstripping seals. On many models, the sill can easily be adjusted up and down with a screwdriver to compensate for settling of a house. In cold climates, a door with built-in thermal breaks between the in door and outdoor skins is effective. Some use foam-filled or vinyl edge seals for the thermal break.

Write for Utility Bills Update No. 769 - a buyer's guide of 13 insulated steel/wood finish front doors listing type of insulation and lock block, styles, glass options, security features, prices and installation instructions. Please include \$2.00 and business-size self-addressed stamped envelope. Send \$2.00 to James Dulley, Carolina Country, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244. To rush delivery or read 150 previous columns, see our World Wide Web site at www.dulley.com.

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WANT BUY OWNER-FINANCED Mortgages, Contracts, Deeds for cash. 1-800-872-5686.

How Wanted

AMBLE CRAFT PRODUCTS at home! Get Extra Income! Guaranteed! Call 1-800-377-6000, Ext., 8820

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WANTED: 10 PEOPLE TO LOSE WEIGHT and make money! Call 1-888-222-3181 for information. Code #RBC.

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For Sale

WATKINS PRODUCTS CATALOG. Order Direct. Hixie Wheeler 3141 Bruce Garner Road, Creedmoor, NC 27522.

CALL SAWMILL EXCHANGE TO BUY/SELL used portable sawmills (Wood-Mizer, TimberKing, etc.). Also, "Portable Sawmill Encyclopedia", only \$14.95! (205)-969-3963, <http://www.sawmill-exchange.com>.

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FREE WATKINS QUALITY PRODUCTS CATALOG. Toll-free 1-888-556-7235 Independent Representatives Kent and Carolyn Rogers.

Real Estate For Sale

163 ACRES, 8 ROOM BRICK HOUSE, 3 Bams in Alleghany County Call (757)-484-7598.

FOR SALE BY OWNER, 3BR-1BA Bungalow in Pisgah Mountains, Cruso, NC on paved scenic Highway. \$65,000. PO Box 1476, Middleburg, FL 32068.

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ATTENTION SENIOR HOMEOWNERS

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development has a mortgage loan program tailored to the needs of seniors.

This new benefit allows you to receive cash advances from the equity in your home to use for any purpose, with no repayment required, as long as you maintain your home as your primary residence.

There are minimal out-of-pocket expenses required to get into the program, and you will receive consumer education from a HUD-approved non-profit counseling agency.

Call the the local HUD/FHA approved lender listed below for more information.



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A cabbage lover's delight!

Waldorf Coleslaw

Submitted by Dylcie Daughtrey, Edenton

- 1 red apple, peeled and chopped
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 4 cups shredded cabbage
- 1 20-ounce can crushed pineapple (drained)
- 1 cup red grapes
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 heaping tablespoons mayonnaise
- 4 teaspoons sugar
- 1/3 cup chopped pecans

Place chopped apples in small bowl and toss with 1 teaspoon lemon juice – set aside. Mix the remaining ingredients together in a large bowl, then add the apples. Delicious!

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2. Craven

1. Charlotte

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